

**T E C H N I C A L B R I E F****Continuity of Operations (COOP) Tools
Emergency Response Toolkit****Purpose**

The National Homeland Security Research Center (NHSRC) has developed a Continuity of Operations (COOP) Tools Emergency Response Toolkit on a DVD to help responders during a nationally significant event where Office of Research and Development (ORD) expertise is needed. This product supports EPA's Strategic Plan Goal 4: Healthy Communities and Ecosystems, which is to protect, sustain, or restore the health of people, communities, and ecosystems using integrated and comprehensive approaches and partnerships.

Background

NHSRC manages a team of experts from throughout the EPA, known as the Red Team, who provide scientific guidance to EPA management and decision makers during a homeland security event. The team may be called upon to provide information in areas such as building decontamination, air modeling (determining the dispersion of a released substance), water sampling, or risk assessment. Each Red Team member has a specific expertise, but additional sources of information are needed for the Red Team to provide advice on a specific incident.

Product Description

The toolkit DVD contains resources, models, links, and reference documents, including:

- Chemical profile documents, such as the Extremely Hazardous Substances Chemical Profiles, Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics Chemical Fact Sheets, and Material Safety Data Sheets for chemicals and other compounds
- EPA resources, such as emergency first aid guides and the Virtual Library, a searchable database of chemicals, biological agents, and disposal, detection, and decontamination information for these agents
- Preparedness and response tools, such as the Registry of Homeland Security Experts, EPA's Homeland Security Strategy and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) education manuals
- Operational medicine references, such as the Medical Management of Biological Casualties Handbook, the Special Operations Force Medical Handbook, and Operational Healthcare in Military Settings

(more)



- The Edgewood Chemical and Biological Center (ECBC) resources, such as weapons of mass destruction (WMD) preparedness exercises, fire quick reference, WMD fact sheets, and ECBC training videos
- EPA applications and models, such as the Exposure Related Dose Estimating Model, the EPA Risk Assistant, the EPA's Exposure Models Library, and Indoor Air Quality Models

Product Recipients

The duplication and distribution of the DVD toolkit is managed within NHSRC by the Response Capability Enhancement (RCE) Team. The discs, originally intended for the Red Team, are now distributed within the Agency to regional emergency on-scene coordinators, NHSRC personnel, members of EPA's National Decontamination Team, and EPA's Emergency Response Team. The toolkit provides a wealth of resources and information for emergency responders, and allows them access to the most up-to-date advice so they can make more informed decisions. The COOP Tools DVD is revised annually to add more recent versions of the information and to include any additional resources in the toolkit.

A second version of the disc is also being developed for distribution to emergency responders outside of the Agency.

For more information, visit the NHSRC Web site at www.epa.gov/nhsrc.

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